

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-6

24 1944

APRIL 30, 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARM POPULATION

Farm population January 1, 1943 was the smallest in the 33 years of estimates. Number of persons on farms this year, 27,821,000. Estimated net loss in farm population during 1942 was 1,227,000. Number of persons leaving farms last year included 737,000 farm men to armed forces and 890,000 others of both sexes and all ages. In 1941 the migration from farms included 211,000 men to the armed forces and in 1940 some 75,000 men. In 1942 births on farms were estimated at 675,000; deaths, 275,000; movement from non-farm areas to farms, 818,000; total number leaving farms for non-farm areas, 2,446,000; net migration away from farms, 1,627,000. The like figure of net movement from farm to town in 1941 was 1,357,000, and in 1940 it was 681,000.

FARM MACHINERY

Out of the roughly 6 million farms in the United States, around 1.7 million farms have this year 1.9 million tractors in use and varying amounts of tractor equipment. Work animals supply slightly over half of drawbar power used on farms. Average age of farm tractors on January 1, 1942 was estimated at 6.4 years; age of tractor equipment about same. Horse-drawn equipment averages much older than tractor equipment; significant percentage over 20 years old, including the larger machines especially. Number tractor-drawn moldboard plows on farms January 1, 1943 estimated at 1,520 thousand, average age January 1, 1942 was 7 years; number combines all sizes 296 thousand, age 5 years, on same dates; number horse-drawn walking moldboard plows 2-horse or larger 3,939 thousand, age 14 years; horse-drawn riding moldboard plows 1,001 thousand, age 17 years; horse-drawn mowers 2,504 thousand, age 15 years; horse-drawn grain drills 1,264 thousand, age 18 years; horse-drawn grain binders 986 thousand, average age 19 years.

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

The per capita consumption of meats in 1935-39 was 126 pounds, dressed weight. Estimated that average civilian demand for meat in 1943 would run as high as 160 pounds per capita, but supply of meats this year for civilians not expected to differ much

from the 126 pounds average. Per capita consumption of all edible fats and oils, including butter, in 1935-39 was about 48 pounds a year. Estimate of demand in 1943, based on ceiling prices and expected income, is about 55 pounds per capita; actual civilian supply this year expected to be about 46 pounds. Per capita consumption of all dairy products (milk equivalent) in 1935-39 averaged about 806 pounds a year. Demand this year estimated at about 855 pounds per capita; supply available for civilians expected to be close to 770 pounds. All foregoing estimates of demand based on normal relationships between consumption, price, and income; do not take into account probable shortages also in substitutes. Assuming average weather, civilian supply of food this year expected to be about as large as 1935-39 average.

DAIRY

Milk production during March about 1 percent over year ago, more cows offsetting slight decrease per cow. Output of evaporated milk in February, 31 percent below year earlier but supplies ample for current needs; Government released 128 million pounds to trade during January-March. Butter production increasing seasonally; during March was about 5 percent above year before. Storage stocks of butter April 1 totaled 16 million pounds, 4 million above a month before but 6 million below the 1935-39 average for that date.

LIVESTOCK

Hogs: Number of hogs slaughtered under Federal inspection during March 4,661,000 head, 8 percent more than in February and 13 percent above March last year. Second largest slaughter for the month on record. For last six months October-March, inspected slaughter slightly over 30 million head, up 7½ percent over year earlier. Hogs so far have averaged roughly 10 pounds heavier this year than last and 20 pounds over average of other recent years. Because of heavier weights, total increase in output of hog products last six months 375 million pounds over a year earlier—equivalent to about half a month's production of pork and lard. Government buying of pork and lard during March roughly 179 million pounds, about 13 million more than in February and

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED¹

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	MAR. 15 1943	APR. 15 1943	APR. 15 1943
Cotton, lb. ct.	19.91	20.13	20.09
Wheat, bu. ct.	122.7	122.3	143.2
Corn, bu. ct.	94.8	100.2	104.0
Oats, bu. ct.	58.4	61.1	64.6
Potatoes, bu. ct.	145.1	166.8	117.2
Cattle, 100 lb. dol.	12.80	13.03	8.78
Calves, 100 lb. dol.	14.45	14.25	10.94
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	14.67	14.35	11.78
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	13.98	13.88	9.53
Eggs, doz. ct.	34.0	33.7	28.5
Chickens, live, lb. ct.	23.5	24.6	18.5
Butterfat, lb. ct.	50.5	51.3	242.2
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . . dol.	3.04	3.02	24.43

¹Prices are shown for only those commodities except cotton for which 5 percent or more of annual sales are made by farmers during April. ²Adjusted for seasonal variation.

54 million over March last year. Government purchases of pork during past six months October-March equivalent to about 25 percent of total inspected output (was 14 percent in like period a year ago). Lard purchases about 250 million pounds in each period or a little over one-fourth of inspected output. Cold storage holdings of pork on April 1 were 591 million pounds, down 36.5 million pounds during March.

Cattle: Inspected slaughter of cattle during March 923,000 head, 8 percent above February but slightly under March last year. Slaughter in first quarter of 1943 was 6 percent under year earlier but 12 percent above average for like period in preceding five years. Calf slaughter (410,000 head in March) up seasonally 24 percent over February but 16 percent below March last year. March calf slaughter smallest since 1932. Three months January-March, inspected slaughter 18 percent under year ago - suggests increasing black market in veal, light carcasses being easy to handle.

Lambs: Inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs during March about 1.5 million head, down 10 percent from last year; weather and feed conditions this spring unfavorable for early lamb crop.

Wool: Wool prices to growers advanced slightly during March. Texas 12 months wools bought at 47 to 49 cents a pound (grease basis) in mid-April, up about two cents from previous month. Mill consumption of apparel wool during February averaged 12.3 million pounds per week (scoured basis), compared with 11.2 million pounds in January and 10.2 million pounds February last year; largest weekly consumption for any month of record.

POULTRY AND EGGS

During March laying flocks averaged 16 percent larger than year previous and layings per hen also 1 percent more. Production of eggs first quarter 1942 up 16 percent over like period last year. Hatching of baby chicks at new high record; hatchery orders April 1 were 75 percent above year earlier; 13 percent more chicks hatched during March than year ago and in first three months this year about 63 million more chicks hatched than in like period last year. Number of young chickens on farms April 1 was 23 percent above year ago. Stocks of poultry in cold storage April 1 were less than half those of year previous and 36 percent below 1932-41 average for that date.

FEED

Total stocks of corn April 1 were 1,458 million bushels (only 50 million above stocks a year ago), having

been reduced by record use of corn during January-March. Carry-over next October 1 may run below the 492 million carry-over a year previous. Supply of the four feed grains for 1943-44 judged likely to be about 10 percent below 1942-43 supply. Since grain eating livestock by end of year will be up 5 to 10 percent, feed grain supply per animal unit may be 10 to 15 percent below 1942-43. Corn prices at new ceiling, which was raised five cents on April 14 (to \$1.07 per bushel for No. 2 yellow at Chicago), this ceiling to remain to end of September.

FATS AND OILS

New support prices for 1943 oilseed crops: flaxseed \$2.85, soybeans \$1.80 per bushel, peanuts about \$137

per ton. Production of fats and oils increased about 12 percent in last crop year but requirements up even more. Production of lard, tallow and greases in recent months below expectations; peanut and soybean oil in 1943 also may fall below.

FARM LABOR

Farm employment increasing as usual in spring but April 1 figure set a new low for the date. Number of farm workers April 1 estimated 9,308,000, including 7,433,000 family workers and 1,875,000 hired hands. This was a 7 percent decrease in hired workers from year ago but little change in number of family workers. On March 1 the total number of workers on farms was 8,730,000, including 7,003,000 family workers and 1,727,000 hired workers. Monthly farm wages April 1 highest of record; monthly

rate with board \$56.84, up 37 percent from year ago.

FARM INCOME

Cash income from farm marketings during March estimated at \$1,303 million compared with \$901 million in March last year and a revised estimate of \$1,126 million in February. Largest increases were from oil crops, vegetables, fruits, meat animals and poultry products; tobacco income unchanged. Government payments in March \$92 million compared with \$81 million in March last year and \$79 million in February. Total income from farm marketings during first quarter of 1943 was \$3,690 million, 35 percent above first quarter last year.

4 mo.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142-Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	APR. 1943
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	185
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	162
Parity ratio		114
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	168
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	172
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	239
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	236
RATIOS	LONG-TIME APR. AVERAGE	APR. 1943
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	11.8	14.3
Butterfat-feed ratio, U.S. . .	23.9	25.9
Milk-feed ratio, U.S.	1.15	1.32
Egg-feed ratio, U.S.	13.8	16.8
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-MAR. 1942	JAN.-MAR. 1943
Milk, (mil. lb.)	26,679	26,912
Eggs, (mil.)	12,731	14,806
Beef, ³ (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	1,527	1,440
Pork and lard ³ (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	2,475	2,756
All meats, ³ (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4,343	4,502

¹February figure. ²Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. February figure. ³Federally inspected slaughter.